Skencateles: Charles Issuing and Joseph Lieb, of Syracuse, and Mr. Becker, a brakeman, were badly burl.

FALSE BILLS OF LADING. FALSE BILLS OF LADING.
CISCINNATI. Monday. April 30, 1855.

Benjamin A. Earle, Lorenzo Chapin and Amsaa
Chapin, have been arrested here, on a requisition
from the Governor of Naw-York charged with obtaining money on false bills of lading. A writ of
habeas corpus was allowed to day by Judge Stiver,
and the case will be heard on Wednesday. The preseners in the meantime, have been remanded to jail,
bail being refueed. bail being refused.

OPENING OF LAKE CHAMPLAIN. OPENING OF LAKE CHAMPLAIN.

Thor, Monday, April 30, 1855.

The steamers America and Canada have commenced regular trips on the Lake, and connect with tha Renseelaer and Saratoga Railroad. The steamer Francis Salters is making regular trips between Barlington and Plattsburg, connecting with the Plattsburg and Montreal Railroad. The Lake is free from ice, and navigation fairly companied.

THE OHIO RIVER. The Office RIVER.
WHERLING, Monday, April 30, 1855.
The river at this point is in good navigable order.
In the channel there is saven feet of water.
PITTSECROH, Monday, April 30, 1855.
The water is the channel of the river at this point is feet one inch in depth, and is falling.

ice, and navigation fairly commenced.

FACTS OF SLAVERY IN KENTUCKY. A CASE OF CRUELTY AND TORTURE

PARIS, (Ky.) Tuesday, April 10, 1855. On Monday, the 12th of March last, a Circuit Court, for Bourbon County, commenced. A Grand Jury of sixteen housekeepers were empanceled and sworn. On Tuesday, at moon the Jury came from their room into open Court, when the following was read: "An indictment vs. Al-"pheus Lewis, Jr. and Margaret his wife, for "crue! and inhuman treatment of slaves. A true "bill." Upon the reading of which the foreman stated that it was the unanimous wish of the Jury that, if the law authorized it, the Court would preceed to take immediate possession of the slaves specified in the indictment. The case being "something new under the sun" in this latitude, it was kept under advisement until the pext morning, when an order was made by Judge Duvai, directing the Sheriff to take possession of said slaves, (Sally, a woman of perhaps 20 or 25 years, and Martha a girl 10 oc 12 years of age.) and to summon the said Arpheus Lewis, Jr. and Margaret his wife, to appear in the Bourson Carcuit Court, on Tuesday, the 20th of March, to answer the said charge. Accordingly, the negroes were taken possession of, and placed in the custody of Jos. Porter, our jailor, and the parties summoned as directed.

The next day, Mr. Lewis came to Paris, and employed the best physician or physicians to administer to the wants of his wretched slaves; but, notwithstanding their skill and the rapid improvement made upon them, they were not in a condition that their owner could bring them into Court, and disprove the allegations which were made against him, or rather which were made against his wife. But, on the contrary, when the case was called up in Court, the Hon. Garrett Davis, Mr. Lewis'e lawyer, remarked, in substance, that the slaves in question were in the possession of the Court, and that the Attorney for the Commonwealth could have such order made in the case as he (the Attorney) chose. Whereupon the attorney, Mr. Dickerson, of Georgetown, asked for an order to seil said slaves, according to the statute, of which I subjoin an

"If the owner of say slave shell treat bim cruelly and in turnally so as, in the opicion of a Jury to endanger the life er limb of such slave, or materially to added the health or said not supply his slave with sufficient whole-same food and reliment, such slave slate taken and said for the benefit of the owner. On the petition of any person, verified by outh, or upon the presentment of a Grand-Jury, setting forth substactibily the lib-treatment of the slave, the Court shall cause the owner of the slave to be sum momed, and may if it shall appear proper, direct the Sheriff or other officer to take passession of the slave and hire him out, peeding the proceeding; and such judgment and orders aball be given by the Court as the finding of the Jury at all justify." Art. 4, secs. 2 and 3, flavied Scanica, vol. 2, p. 554.

The Court the

The Court then rendered a decree to that effect, appointing Thos. A. Taylor a Commissioner, and directing him to advertise said sieves for sale, on Menday, the 2d day of April, it being County Court day for Bourbon County. They were advertised by sticking the following paper upon the Court-House door, and in no other way, and at no other place that the writer is aware of:

"Commissionaria Salla or Shaves — As Commissionar, under a Decree of the Bourbon Gounty Cont, at the Macon Term, 1885, in the case of Ambons Lewis and Margaret his wife will expose to public case, at the Court House down in Paris, on the 2d day of April cast, County Court day for said Court, on a credit of four months, two valuable shaves to will a negro second aged about 25, and a regre gire shoot 12, Paris, on the publishing to purchase, can see said shave by cathing on J. Portagon of the purchase, can see said shave by cathing on J. Portagon of the purchase, can see said shave by cathing on J. Portagon of the purchase, can see said shave by cathing on J. Portagon of the purchase of the purc ter. Bond, with approved security, will se required, having the force and effect of repleys bond. "March 22, 1855. "THOS. A TAYLOR, Commissioner"

Notwithstanding we have two newspapers published in Paris, and it is the custom to advertise valuable property sold under a decree of Court, in the papers, the Commissioner and both of the editors, who are lawyers, and doubtless heard of the case, for it produced more general excitement than any case that was in Court, however kept it out of the papers. Way is this so? For answer, it may be said that the predecessor of the editor of The Flag, for a recent notice of the passage of Matt. F. Ward through our town, in which be denominated him as the "great unbung," was attacked shortly afterward in the City of Lexington by the Flournoys, and genteelly caned; and, when he was afterward told that the Flourpoys were relatives of the Wards, and that they were influential men too, whose politics were with The Flag, and therefore he ought not to have published such a notice, he replied: that he did not know they were relatives. In commenting upon this, the editor of The Citizen said that the edi who was caned ought to have known that Ward was related to some one. Both of our editors know that "Alpheus Lewis and Margaret his "wife" have many wealthy relations and it is even yet true that " the rich hath many friends.

It was evident, however, that the neighbors of Mr. Lewis intended to do all that the Isw would enable them to do, to correct the evil complained of, and it is generally understood that if there is a repetition of such conduct as has been lately perpetrated, the law will not be called into requisition, inasmuch as it is a very inefficient one .such conduct, they say, shall not again be known to them and go unpunished.

It will be observed that our law does not prohibit our tyrants from resupplying themselves with servants, or rather slaves; nor, indeed, does It take from them, or only for a time, those that have been barbarously treated. Mr. Alexander. a merchant of Paris, after seeing these negroes. became very anxious to purchase the elder one, from the fact that he, about two years ago, bought her father and mother at the same time Mr. Lewis bought Sally, and he had found them to be good servants, and wished to buy her, measurably to gratify her parents, not doubting that she too was a good servant, as she was so represented at the sale two years ago, and so her countenance indicated. But he was informed by the sheriff that there would be no use in entertain ing such an idea as Mr. Lewis had made an arrangement to have a negro-buyer at the sale to bid them in for him, as he was determined that they should not be sold to remain in this country. So the sequel proved. They were bid in by Mr. Lowis's sgent, and they have been removed to parts unknown. Whether their tortures have ceased, "deponent saith not;" they are eridently not yet in a condition to be taken off for sale.

Mr. Lewis not defending the case, the testimeny was not elicited in open cours, but it has been freely made kn wn by the Grand Jurors, as presented to them. Before the Jury, one of Mr. Lewis's neighborr, Mr. David Montgomery, of revolutionary descent, testified that on the first Monday in March, which was County Court day, the younger girl above spoken ran into his house in a state of complete nakedness, and that her first words besought them "to please let her warm "by their fire." Upon examination by this neighbor and wife the girl was found to have been most cruelly treated. She showed burns that evidently were made with hot irons upon her neck, her face, her hands, under both arms, between her legs, both behind and before, beside bruises upon her head, and bleeding at the ears. She had that evening chill after chill. This neighbor acted humanely and manly, and the miserable girl was soon enveloped in a comforter before his fire, and he sallied out in search of other neighbors, determined to have them wituess the borrid spectacle. Unfortunately, nearly all of them were in Paris. He succeeded, however, in finding two, who saw the girl while at his house. He then, in company with one of them, went to Mr. Lewis's house-he also being in town. Upon the ringing of the bell, Mrs. Lewis presented herself at the door. A short coveres tion ensued, in which Mrs. Lewis acknowledged that she had corrected the girl, and that she had bade her never show herself again in her presence. Mr. M. rep ied that she was in a very had condition, and that she had better send for her: upon which the door was shut in their faces. It was also made known to members of the Grand Jury, though not in the Jury-room, by white men in Mr. Lewis's employment, that Sally (who is a grown woman, and, I think, the mother of children) was stripped by Mrs. Lewis's directions ontirely raked, and her heels tied up to a tree about four or five feet from the ground. She then made a negro man force the pump, and another negro woman direct the hose so as to dreuch her with water, while she would stand off a pace and peit her with stopes until she would tire, and then she would take to her more favored method of torture, the hot iron. The reason these men in Mr. Lewis's employment were not summoned before the Grand-Jury was, that there was a sufficiency of testimony without them, especially in the case of the younger girl. Had they been summoned, Mr. Lewis would have anticipated the whole proceedings and put the negroes out of the way -a thing that the neighbors were very anxious to prevent, for they had volunteered their information to the Jury, and wished it confirmed by the appearance of the negroes. The writer of this saw the slaves in the jail, in company with divers other gentlemen of Paris and Bourbon County, and I will say that Sally had old scars upon her back as large as one's hands; sores upon her hips, thighs and legs, that could scarcely be covered with the palm of the hand. The smaller one's condition has been described above. She came to jail with no other

closhing on than a linsey dress. You are ready to inquire who are this "Mr. "Alpheus Lewis and Margaret his wife." He is the sen of Alpheus Lewis, Sc., of Clarke County, Ky. Mr. Lewis, Sr. is said to be a member of the Baptist Church, (Calvanistic is the term of distinction in this country, ) a man of wealth, and reputed to be of one of the best of families. Mrs. Lewis's maiden name was Scott, and perhaps she has inharited from her father, Robert Scott, a larger estate than any lady now living in our County. Her father died while she was quite young. Her mother afteward married again. Her mother and step-father are of the same religious faith with Mr. Lewis's father. The step-father occasionally preaches, perhaps regularly. If these parents have brought up "Alpheus and Margaret his wife" in the nurture and a Imposition of the Lerd, the wise man erred when he said train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it Their fortune is ample. They spend much of their time in New-Orleans, and other cities. Their large estate, in a good neighborhood, in Bourbon County, not being situated upon a Macalamized road, is not a suitable place for them to dwell in. They purchased a fine piece of land in Gov. McDowell's survey, and built upon it a handsome dwelling after the most approved modern style. They laid out their grounds with taste, made a splendid carriage road, and groups of handsome evergreens decorate their beautiful and extensive yard: so that the traveler, upon the road between Paris and Lexington, (and which, by the bye, is said to be one of the finest roads in the Union,) as he passes, would dephtless feel that here was a paraoise; for here, nature and art have combined to make this place levely and enchanting. Oh: shame, that it should be anything else than paradisical! But here is the residence of "Alpheus

Lewis, Jr., and Margaret, his wife." Uncle Tom's Cabin" has had an extensive reading in Kentucky. The majority of its read ers, I think, deem it a faithful and fair work. But some have said that Mrs. Stowe was unjust in representing a master selling his favorite servant, and that she took more pains to depict the Legrees than the Sheloys. It is known, however, that good servants have sometimes been sold; and it is also known that no female character is personated in the book that equals or approximates to Mrs. Lewis in cruelty and inhumanity.

HAINOIS.

Editorial Correspondence of The N. Y. Tribune.

Unicago, El., Tuesday, March 27, 1855. In my two fermer visits to Northern Illinois, my observations were confined to Chicago and the district stretching east of it to the Indiana line, north werd to Wisconsin, south-westward to Aurora, and wests and to the valley of Rock River. This time, I have not only revisited most of the old ground, but passed worth-west to Freeport, Galena, and Duul-ith d south-westward to Ottswa, Ls Salle, Blooming ton Decatur, and Springfield, where I was within four hours' ride of the Mississippi at Alton, and bu six or seven hours of St. Louis. In other words. I have seen thrice as much of the State as I ever did before, and I think some of the very best portions of it. And, while I a ways regarded Illinois as one o the most fertile States of our Union, this visit has raised my estimation of her capacities and her legitimate attractions to those seeking a new home.

I will not be misundersteed. I think the pio who puts up his cabin on the bleak prairie, miles from any timber, must righly earn his quarter section

by toll, exposure and privation, and ought not to be made otherwise to pay for it. Fertile as the prairies generally are, the black soil on their surface is not sually three or four feet deep, as Western hyperbole is wont to represent it-it is oftener less than eix inches than much over, while the richest deposits of this muck are apt to be found in hollows or sloughs which without draining are unavailable. These sloughs are palpable unisances, especially at this sea son, when it is dangerous to drive a team into one of bem, yet often difficult to avoid them. Perhap the region immediately surrounding Chicago is unfavorable specimen even of wet prairie the proportion of the prairie lands which must await draining before they can be profitably cuitivated cannot fall short of one-fourth, and may go much higher. Then the infrequency of springs breeks, the deficiency of water-power, the great teams required to break up prairie properly, and the beavy cost of traveling miles for every fence-rail or stick of fuel, are serious drawbacks to prairie settlement. The ploneer who can fasten upon a quarter section half prairie and half timber, especially if he can build his cot in the southern edge of the wood, and have his prairie lying southerly before him, is a happy man; but between locating in heavy timber like that of Northern Ohio or Western New-York, where every foot of samihine has to be fought for, and on a rich, smooth prairie, three miles from timber, I ould decidedly prefer the former. Between clearing off timber, and growing or importing it, I deem the former by far the more feasible. But the Railroads, wherewith Illinois has of late

been and is still being checkered, have already wrought a great change in this respect, and are des tined to settle the prairies far more rapidly and speedily than their most sanguine admirers could have anticipated ten years ago. When I saw, seven years ago, the settlers of interior counties taking out from Chicago load after load of boards wherewith to fence their large inclosures, taking in loads of grain and selling them for hardly more than would load them back again with boards, I could not but consider this a slow way to procure fencing. But now there are few spets in Northern Illinois so far as twenty miles from a Rallroad, and very soon all parts of the State will be within ten miles of either steamboat, canal or railway communication. And wher ever the es stop, there timber, lime, brick, &c. speedily b to be unloaded; there houses spring up, childr are born, and cultivation begins to est jacent prairie I shall be disappointed not double her population between to the ci if Illinois

1850 and 180 J. As to the growth of Wood, it is very generally estimared to equal the annual consumption. But it ought te de more, much more than this. True, there is as much wood in the State as is needed, but not where it is needed. Balts of timber skirt nearly every stream, but there are thousands of square miles of choice prairie at least five miles from the pearest grove or "opening." Every land-owner, every speculator, ought to realize the moral obligation resting on him to plant timber. If the owner of each prairie quarter-section distant more than one mile from the the nearest timber were required by law to plant at least ten acres of timber thereon within a year, and keep the fire out of said timber by plowing a wide belt all around it, the total value of the lands of Illinois would be enhanced at least one fourth within ten years. Let the seed sown be part Locust or some other quick-growing wood, the residue Hickory, Sugar Maple, White Pine, Chestnut, Cherry, Black Walnut, &c., and soon Illinois, from being the very worst, would soon become decidedly the best tim bered State in the Union. I think the Railroads already constructed or com-

menced have at least doubled the value of the wild lands

of Illinois. Millions of acres which, but for these, would not have been inhabitable for a lifetime, will now be promptly settled and improved. And all the completed roads running westward, or nearly westward, m Chicago, look as if they were making money, as is the Northern Indians on the east; even the Chi eago and Mississippi runs out fair, though smaller, ins; while the Illinois Central is as yet doing poor ly. It runs mainly through prairie as yet thinly or not at all settled. And it does not seem to point in the direction of the main current of travel; that is from east to west; while the Central runs from south to north, north-west, with a branch, nearly as long as the truck, leading to Chicage in the north east. I have hitherto supposed that this Company drove a sharp bar-gain with the State; now I suspect that the State has the best of it. To her, the Road is worth all it cost: I trust it will yet be worth even more to the stockholders-but not yet. There are too few considerable villages along its track, and too many mile of houseless prairie on either side of it. This prairie will yet be settled and thrifty, waving with corn and dotted with cattle; but, meantime, the stock will droop and dividends be sesree If the Company had been obliged by its charter to put its lands all up at public auction within two years from the completion of their work, and sell each lot or quarter-section without reserve to the highest bidder, with the inexprable contler, and not more than a section in all to any one, the road would have paid sooner and paid better than it pow will. I am not sure that the land would not even have sold higher; for the assurance that all of it was to pass forthwith into the hands of cultivators would have greatly enhanced its real value. As things are. I suspect the extreme north-west section of the road, reaching from Freeport to Galena and Dunleith, and taking the Chicago travel at Freeport, from the Chicago and Galena Road, is the most productive portion of the entire work. But only let population be attracted to its vicinage, and the great fertility of the soil, with the universal demand for pine lumber from the North and coal from the South, will create an immense Freighting business, while heavy crops of core, spring wheat, &c., and great droves of cat tle, will yield liberal returns for the beneficent enterprise which has so quickly girdled the prairies with

-The most beautiful and attractive lands in Illinois. to my eye, are those bordering her rivers, especially the Illinois and its tributaries. Sheltered from the flerce prairie winds by the bluffs as well as the timber wherewith they abound, and generally well watered as well as fertile, the britoms are in every view most inviting to settlers. Ottawa, at the junction of the Fox with the Illinois, is in the midst of a pleasant re gion; La Salle fifteen miles below, at the south end of the Illinois Canal, is surrounded by Coal, Lime, &c., and seems a place of considerable trade. Here the Central Railroad crosses the Illinois River on the best-looking bridge I have seen in this country. Some thirty miles up the Lilipois is the new village of Morris-not much of a place, but its site is the fixed I bave seen in the State-dry, healthy and in a grove of oak timber, most of which the residents have thus far had the good taste to preserve. If they persevere in well-doing, theirs will be the finest village in the State. Freeport in the north-west, though originally located on an open prairie, has a high, rolling site, is already large, and is growing rapidly. Here the main line of the Illinois Central from the south meets and absorbs the Chicago Union Railroad from the east, and bears away northwest to Galena and the Missis-

Springfield, the capital, is a city of some ten thousand inhabitants, located on a flat plais, nearly surrounded by prairie, much of it uncultivated, even at a few miles' distance. Its site remin is me strongly of Columbus, Ohio, an older and larger city. The Chicage and Mississippi Railroad is here intersected by an east and west railroad from Decatur on the Illineis Central to Naples on the Illineis River, which is ultimately to reach the Mississippi on the west, and the Indiana network of railroads on the east.

Chicago is still growing visibly and rapidly, and entitled to elect a Member of Congress by itself after the next Census. It is claimed that, in spite of the hardness of the times, Real Estate here

sells higher this spring than ever before. And still there is room here for good mechanics and manufacturers. I should think a comprehensive Agricultura Warehouse, for the sale of Implements, Trees and Seeds, such as is about to be established at Madison, would do well here. The State is sadly deficient in Fruit-trees; thousands of farms from ten to tift en years old being still without an occhard. True, here are Nurreries here; but I must believe that they do not know how to advertise, or the settlers would are this bave stocked their farms with Apple, Peach, Pear, Plum and Cherry trees. The dearth of these on all sides is one of the most lamentable de-ficiencies of Illine's farming.

The People of Northern filline's are generally pro-

percua, and their country is improving as it never was before. The construction of so many Railroads has thrown a great deal of money into the country, and still gives remunerative employment to thensands. Probably One Million Dollars' worth of cordwood has been bought by the several Railroads within the last three months. Then Grain is high, and the Corn crop here (not in Southern Illinois) was a fair one. A friend in Ottawa assured me that he raised a crop of Corn last year, at a cost of \$570, which he sold for \$1,200; and he, being a lawyer and no farmer, thought no other man in the State could have farmed to less advantage than he did. I was assured that a man bought five hundred acres of wild prairie, near the Central Road, about a year ago, had it fenced and broken, planted with corn, tended and harvested, and sold the crop for the entire cost, purchase of land inclusive, and had four hundred dollars over. Of course, this is unusual; bu: I have no reason to doubt that it was done. How can men, who might got away into the broad, free country, where no man asks another man's permission to live, stay famishing, or begging for employment, in our seaboard cities !

NOTES OF WESTERN TRAVEL.

ILLINOIS WEATHER AND RAILROADS. Correspondence of The N. Y. Tribune. FREEPORT, ILLINOIS, March 27, 1855.

My experiences for the last twenty days prove that there are other roads beside Jordan which are hard to travel. March is a proverbially obstreporous and rowdy month; but March in Illinois is worse March than anywhere else. Bryant, under the woody hills of Reslyn, sings of the month:

"But in thy stannes frown shides."
A lock of kindly promise yet."
No such thing !—out here, at least. If there eyer way

a hard, pittless, obdurate sky-if there ever was a cheerless, raw. deadening, unrelenting air-it is the sky which is now above my head, and the air which now whistles around the house. Take the mud of the Crimes, the temperature of Spitzbergen, the winds of San Francisco and Trieste, the dryness of the Great Schara, the dampeess of an Irish bog, the snows of Lower Canada, and the rains of a wet season in the Tropics, and mix them up well together, and you will have a tolerably fair representation of the month of March, 1855, in the State of Illinois.

"The like never was known before," say the old residents. I should hope so, and add the prayer, may it never be known again! One week ago to day the thermometer was at zero, and the Illinois River froze over in a single night. This morning the water in my room had a crust of ice nearly half an inch in thickness, and I was thoroughly chilled and banumbed by a ride of ten miles across the prairie in the face of wind and snow. There are still snowsqualls at intervals; the ground is stony with frost; the grass is as brown and dead as in mid-winter; and there is nothing in all the outer world to indicate that spring is any nearer than it was three months ago. At this time last year the farmers in these regions had finished their spring plowing, the grass was already green, the roads dry, and the temperature mild and delightful. But as that auspicious season was the precursor of a year of unexampled misfortune, let us hope that this cold and cloudy morning of '55 may

er in a bright, cheerful and prosperous day. I left Chicago on my way southward on Saturday, the 10th, and reached Peru, my destination, the same afternoon. There was a soft rain, which turned the bed of acheeive plaster, and I remained in-doors during the following day, which was one of the darkest Sundays ever known in the West. In order to reach Springfield in season on Monday, I was obliged to ride over to La Salle in the evening, and leave there at 3 A. M. on the Hilmois Central. This Road and the Chicago and Mississippi are rivals, and display great energy in avoiding connection. The latter owever, is much the best, all its trains making through trips, instead of stopping all night at dreary prairie stations, for the sake of patronizing hotels and

creasing the price of town lots. We crossed the fine bridge, 2,900 feet in length, over the Illinois River, and proceeding southwards at a joking pace and moderate speed, reached a house and some shantles called Waupella, in season for an early breakfast. The half-finished buildings, standing in the midst of a hemisphere of forlorn prairie, sppeared at a distance like a wreck drifting on the open sea. In a large loft under the rafters we found a table spread with beefsteaks, cakes and coffee, of which we were allowed to partake for the consideration of fifty cents. There were some smaller spartments, divided from the main loft by screens of alico, behind which we heard the cries of an infant and various domestic noises, from time to time. The breakfast, however, was better than its accessories had led us to suppose, or else the four hours' olting had given us indiscriminate appetites.

The dull night had now faded into a raw, gray, dreary day, and, as we burried southward over interminable prairies, I decided that I had never passed through so desolate a region. The brown, ead wastes of grass extended in unbroken monotony to the horizon, the track of wheels here and there slone thowing that human life had ever passed over them. The African deserts, with their golden sand, their purple mountains of porphyry, and their cloudess skies, are cheerful and inspiring; but if you wish to experience the sense of utter devolation, stand on a prairie in winter, with a leaden sky over your head, and a wind that has blown unchecked for a thousand miles cutting you to the bone. Yet I can easily imagine what plains of Paradise these same prairies must be under the grase and flowers of June, when the fatness of this matchless soil feeds a wilderness of color and perfume. I can also understand how the settler should love the prairie, as the sailor loves the es—that he should at last rejoice in its expansion, its loneliness, and its sublime monotony, and feel imprisoned among the hills. But I shall never make my abode on the prairies, unless I can see mountains in the distance, and have winter expunged from the cal-

After waiting an hour at Decatur, I took the Great Western road to Springfield, passing over about forty miles more of the same scenery, with the exception of some woody, undulating dips of soil near the Sangamon River. Springfield is built on the flat, black am, and though partially planked, is the deepest and most slippery town I ever beheld, when it rains The mud draws off your overshoes as neatly as any boot-jack. After losing mine, I had serious thoughts of securing my boots by means of a strap over the shoulders. I have been considerably amused by the endeavers of the citizens of different Illinois towns to shift the reputation of muddy streets from their own place, and fix it upon some other. At Peru and La Selle, the people, while tugging along, imbedded half-way to the knees, admit that it is rather bad, but nothing to what they have at Bloomington. At Bloomington it is very bad, they can't deny; but if you want to know what mud is, you must go to pringfield. At Springfield, you lose your shoes and fall upon your back two or three times, but are consoled by the assurance that the people in Alton have a much harder time of it. Fortunately for all these

The weather continued raw, rainy and cold, the next

day, as I extended my journey to St. Louis. The Mississippi River was free from ice, but full, and ris ing rapidly, and the fine lovce in front of the Central City, presented a busy and animated aspect. I stayed three days in St. Louis, but the weather was so bad that I saw comparatively little of its exterior, I was equally unfortunate last spring, in my visit. There can be no doubt, however, of the interior warmth and genia ity of St. Louis. If the rains beat against her outer walls, there is much sunshine within. Louis grows with a steady, healthy growth, and her citizens have a calm, settled confidence in her future which forms a striking contrast to the excited and enthusiastic anticipations of other Western cities. She has just passed through her most trying experiences; her vigor has been fully tested, and her people are now more cheerful and hopeful than ever.

It began snowing in St. Louis on the afternoon of the 15th, and when I left, early the next morning. there was six inches of snow in the streets. Too prairies between Alton and Springfield were white natead of brown. A cluster of dark specks, reviewed against this clear background, revealed to us a mare of deer in the distance. I found Springfield the same Serbonian bog as ever, until Saturday, when the new moon ushered in a reign of frost and cold. The hers of sticking plaster were soon converted into cost t and the air became intensely keen and nipping. Atter two entire moons of severe cold (com the 90th of January.) we had but a dreary presence when the third set in after the same fusion The result, thus far, proves that the prognostics were con

I bade a final adieu to Springfield on Monday morning, the 19th, and came northward to La Salie The day was dark and raw, with snow-squalia, and the wind of the prairies was in full force. The cars rocked occasionally under its effects, until I began to suspect that they would be blown over bodily. finkes of snow scudded with arrowy swiftness before the blast, notil they found an eddy, which was gen-erally in the railroad cuts, and there they all collected. The snow increased as we advanced, but there were no serious drifts until we were within four n lies of La Salle, where we stuck fast in a depth of eighteen inches. With a snow-plow, or even a tem porary board fender over the cow catcher, we should have gore through without difficulty. As it was, the test of the drifted track was shoveled off, the cars pulled out one by one, and in an hour we were clear The remainder of the road ran along the high bloss Sverlooking the Vermillen River, which were blown clear. This is a very picturesque stream for some distance above its junction with the Illinois. It dows in the bottom of a deep chasm, walled in with pre e piteus cliffs of limestone rock. As we crossed the long bridge over the Islinois, the

river was clear of ice, and running in small waves against the gale. The next morning it was an unroken sheet of ice nearly a mile in breadth. The day was severely bright and cold. I was bound for Ottawa and waited for the Rock Island train as long as I dared, but as there were no signs of it, succeeded with great difficulty in getting a vehicle for the jour-I did not wonder at the reluctance of the livery stable keepers, after we were under way. You might as well attempt to drive a buggy over the ice-furrows of the Mer de Glace, as over one of these roads, when its fathomless mud is suddenly frozen. The river road was under water, so we took a more circuitous route over the bluffs, under the direction of the Lake Superior Major, whose prairie-craft and stories of North Western adventure shortened the way considerably. It was a wild, irregular road until we descended to the Ottawa bottoms. The bluffs are crowned in some places with a growth of timber, prin cipally oak, but not remarkable for size. On one of the open tracts I saw, for the first time, a flock of prairie-bens in the natural state. I had previously seen them only in slices, with currant jelly.

Ottaws is very pleasantly situated at the junction of the Illinois and Fox Rivers The valley here oxpands somewhat, allowing a broad stretch of fertile bottom-land between the bluffs. The town is handsomely Isid out, well built, busy and thriving. Its population, I believe, is about 4,500. There is a great ivalry between the Cities of Peru, La Sale and Ottawa, as indeed there is between all neighboring towns throughout the West. Of course, I cannot here express any preference for either, without exciting the indignation of the other two. They all take THE THIBUSE, and would be certain to see what I might say. This local pride of all Western towards a very good thing in its way, but its manifestation is sometimes quite amusing to a stranger. Wherever you go, the question is, "How do you like our place?" Last year I simply replied "very well, in all cases, and consequently disappointed the ques tioners. They expected something more intense and enthusiastic. This winter I reply, "I consider it the center of creation," which generally gives tolerable satisfaction-for if a Western town is not already the center of the universe, it is soon going to be. is to be a railroad from some other place, which will draw all Eastern and Western trade to a focus at that particular spot. They even look further into futurity, sometimes, and determine in their minds the the station on the Great Pacific Road, where Asiatic and Eeropean travelers will be allowed fifteen minuses for refreshments. This pride, however visionary of the town, and as its natural result, there is generally a more liberal public spirit manifested in West-

ern than in Eastern cities. I shall have to reserve another week's experience of mud, wind, snow and railroads for another letter. Full justice to the subject cannot be done in a single rambling epistle.

AN EXCURSION IN KANSAS.

Correspondence of The N. Y. Tribuna. COUNCIL CITY, Kansse Territory, March 20.

In company with five others, I left Kansas City, on the 13th, for a prospecting tour up the Kansas River, and to such other portions as we might wish to We were provided with two horses, a covered lumber-wagon, and a driver, with a stock of provisions and cooking utensils, and a store of Buffaloskins and blankets.

The weather was row and cloudy, and the air filled with a flue mist, which soon changed to snow. We started about 12 o'clock M. for Lawrence, and about o'clock, in a severe snow-storm, reached Donaldson's-the house of a Missourian who occupies a farm on the Shawnee Reservation, about 16 miles from Kanaca, by virtue of having taken one of the daughters of that nation to wife. We had hardly congratu lated ourselves on our good fortune in getting such comfortable quarters, when a new arrival horrific ue with the conviction that accommodations barely sufficient for six were now to do duty for a source, and the result was, that a small upper room, 15 feet square, that night served as the eleeping room for

and the result was, that a small dipper room, is less square, that hight setved as the siseping room for twenty-one persons.

The next day was cold, and wa began to wonder what strange influence had sourced the genial temper of a Kansas spring. We rode through a broken country over a poor road till about 1 o'clock, when we paused for dinner at the house of Blue Jacket, an Indian, on the border of the Reservation. For this meal, very poor and dirty, we paid 50 cents asch, and went our way. The country now changed—for the better, to my eye—presenting a succession of prairies, which I am sure, no region in the world can surpars. It excited our admiration, notwith-smoding the keen north-west wind that seemed those had been explained to us in one of the newspaners of that enterprising city.

We arrived at Lawrence, whose ample accommod a papers of that enterprising city.

good hole at Lagrand to us in one of the newspaners of that enterprising city.

We arrived at Lawrence about a o'clock. At first we rubbed our eyes, and could searcely credit their evidence. We here expected to find everything new and rude; but the reality was entirely too much for us. A few straggling buts, located without regard to streets, formed the entire of the great city which has, for the past season, excited alike the pride of the East and the jealousy of the South. We drove to the Republican House—much superior to the St. Nicholas, its rival—and found a turf-hovel, whose sides, running upward from the ground till they met, formed the roof, also, and whose interior accommodations consisted of a few rough betths, into which places, the mud dries very rapidly, and the summer

theirmates are packed at night, in the supposition that they can use them for beds.

It is no wonder that so many have rushed to Lawrence with high softcipations, only to turn back, diagnosted to their Eastern homes. We met several such, both there and on the road. For ourselves, we were exploring: and a few moments existing in that we should not stay over night in the city, if good country accommodations cound be had nay by. So, after warming, and bestowing our benions on the poor follows who came around to state at us, we dreve on, seven miles further, to the homes of Judge Waksheld, whom you will remember as the Free Soil candidate for Congress last fail. Here we found fine quariers, and, as the next day was in too severe to travel, remained till Saturday, about aboot, and, on leaving, carried with us a gratiful sease of the shelter which had been afforded us against a stam which I have seldom known surposed to severity, during a January in the North.

The weather was still cold, though it was milder toward hight. We left the Cities of Delaware, Dougless, and Lecompton to the right on the river, and reached Technology, twenty miles from I, wreach, eventy in his features, and Aboiltionists, a layeas, when traveled Technology, and the feature of the right. He is noted a dy Pro-Slavery in his features; and Aboiltionists, a layeas, about sundown.

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This town has been located und
the Emigrant Aid Common h
tren, and is loudly prained by the
best site of the river.

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causes why it should as and it is a war as a core of mines. It was by the hardest in the cuty by first a commensations here; and the cuty by first a city which he intends in trans shall also become one. A norm was given us, and we did for ourselves on much and arrap with dried beef and crackers we warrest, this the east (Sunskay) mone, when the woman of the house professed a perference to furnish our meals harrest—a conclusion warrest we rejoiced exceedibation.

meals herreif—a concursion was read we rejoised excerolinally.

Sun any was phrasaut; and we thought the storm
over, but during the night, the wind changed (no
difficult natier, toey say, here); and we started off,
next merring in the midst of another violent norwester. Our course was south, toward Conneil City,
via the Wasarusa and One Hundred and Ten; and a
hard day we had. What with the snow that greatly
impeded our progress and sometimes readered the
road halishing ubbable, and the cold what that childe
us through and through, we found ourselves incompetent to realize the blessings which Nature has been
understood to have lavished upon this region. After
twice losing our way, and contending with luck till
nearly 11 o clock at hight, we at last encamped in a
wooded ravine, where a sunger of our own improyains and areas roading also are reconciled as we
our fate, and partially consoled us for the unatitained
comforte of One Hundred and Ten. We now fully
appreciated the windom which had provided us with
blankets and salms; and, with our feet toward any eatlog fire, we stretched ourselves under shalter of a log fire, we stretched ourselves under shelter of a bluff, and fell seleep winking at the bright stars, which peoped through the overhanging tree tops and dimly conscious of the remote howing of the practic-

dinity conserved works to the most morning was bright, though cool. The sext morning was bright, though cool. The sext most magnificent praise, rolling like the waves of the coesn. We were soon astir; and were alike pleased and provoked, after ten minutes ride, at sight of the American flag, which floats over One-Hundred-Mark. Ten.

of the American flag, which floats over One-Handredand Ten.

A good breakfast consoled us; after which we contirued our journey. We were now on the Santa Féroad—the finest satural highway in the world—and a
about time brought us to Conneil City. This place,
settled by emigrants sent out by the American Sattlement Company, had been previously seen by only
one of the party, and excited the admiration of all.
It is located at the confinence of Switzer's and Dragoon Creeks, which flow thence into the Osage
River, and is the center of one of the most fertile and
benutiful regions in America—well-wooded, for Kunsas, and abounding in excellent coal, and stone for
lime and building. A large reception-house, twentyfour by firty-eight feet is being built on the highest
point in the city, and from it the view of the surrounding country is the fixest I ever saw. For miles
and miles away, the landscape presents a continual rounding country is the finest I ever as x. For miles and miles away, the landcappe presents a continual succession of rolling prairie, interspersed with woodland. Some three hundred claims are already laid in the vicinity, and still there remains a supply equally good, though of course a little more remote from the city. Several wells have been dug hers, and ware is procurable in abundance, of a quality far superior to any we have seen in the Territory—limpid and purs as that of a New-Hampshire spring. The depth of these wells varies from thirteen to thirty feet.

NEOSHO.

## DISTRESSING CASUALTY.

Correspondence of The N. Y. Tribane.
MICHIGAN CITY, Ind., April 26, 1855. Michigas Cirr, Ind., April 20, 1833.
One of those sai accidents which, notwithstanding so frequent and fastal warnings, continue to occur, happened in our city yesterday morning. A young man named M. J. Hines, a resident of Adamrille, Washington County, N. Y., where his friends reside, arrived here in the morning train west, and leaving the cars while they made the moul stop, attempted to regain them stier they had commenced to run rapidly. He grasped a middle car as it was entoring the depot, when, before he could gain a stancing, his test strack, the cold of the platform burtley him upon the track, when, before he could gain a stancing, his test arrack, the stad of the platform, hurling him upon the track, the wheels of the succeeding car crushing his head, shoulders, and arms, and rolling and tumbling him for some sky feet. The mangled hody was placed in a cflin and buried the same morning. A friend who accompanied him returned to hear the distressing tidings to his friends.

A Soldien's Requist. - Benjamin Loomis, an in valid soldier of the war of England with the United States of 1812, having failed to produce evidence of ha survice of which proves satisfactory to the Commissi Pension Office, for the granting of an invalid pension,

Pension Office, for the granting of an invalid pension, would, in this public manner, affectionatly request any fellow solvier or other person who was knowing to the circumstance of his being sink in the army, to make affidavit of the same, before a proper magnetrate, and certified by the County Clerk, to send the sense by mail to A. Oldfield, Atlas, Geneese County, Michigan. Mr. Loomissavs:

"I sulfield in the service as Utlea, N. Y., Jan. 2, 1815 to the the Ride Regiment under Col. Richard. Amatron, Island Parkette, Phys., and Cack. Walter German. I was taken size at Seckett's Herbor, and was removed from that place to Ruffield, at the army was on it, way to Machina. A. Beffeloi was remitted to so into the country for my hashin, and was storaged dishlared at Sackett's Herbor, became of 10 health. I temenbut a faw naview which might be hundred to mentions Sergent John C. Bertly Corporal John Burris, privates simulative Lane and John Baris, Any remon complying with the above request will be compensated of the Island.

A BOY KILLED BY VIOLENCE.-Coroner Hauford held an Inquest at Green Point, last evening, on the body of a boy about 12 years of age, named George E Brush, who died on Sunday morning, from the ef fects of a blow on the head, by a club in the hands of a German reg-picker, a boy about 16 years of age. It appears that the German boy, with his two little brothers, were at Green Point on Saturday afternoon; his smaller brother threw a piece of coal which struck deceased, (who was with a party of boys,) when he, in return, struck the little boy with a rattan, and the older brother drew a knife and drove him back: the German boys then started for home, and were followed, when the oldest one struck deceased a violent blow on the left temple with a club. The injured boy returned home, but was not considered to be seriously injured, but in the mercing was found dead. The Jury returned a verdict that Geo. Brush came to his death by a blow struck on the left side of the head with a club by some unknown person. On the rendition of the verdict, a warrant was issued by the Coroner for the arrest of the German boy, who, it is understood, resides in the Sixteenth Ward.

The election for Assistant Engineers of the Fire Deperiment (E. D.) took place last night, but the canvas was not completed at 1 o'cleck this morning.

FROM SOUTHERS FLORIDA. - Ine arrival of the The latest agrices from Ford yets also the the

The latest advices from ForeMyers state that the Indians are still peaceably disposed and that two expeditions were being fitted out to explore the Indian country. The first consists of two companies under countend of Capt. Prest, which left Panta Rosa on the 18th inst. on board the U.S. steamer Taxas Ranger, destined for Marco river. The second is expected to leave seen, taking a northern and somewhat circuitons route, in order to meet the expedition from Marco at Lake Okachoba.

Orders have been issued forbidding any traffic between the Indians and the men connected with the expedition. The object of the expedition is to explore the country thoroughly in order to ascorts in the exact the country thoroughly in order to ascorts the exact the country thoroughly in order to ascorts the U.S. Indians at last accounts had retired to the Big Cylindians at last accounts had retired to the Big Cylindians at last accounts had retired to the Big Cylindians at last accounts had retired to the Big Cylindians at last accounts had retired to the Big Cylindians at last accounts had retired to the Sig Cylindians at last accounts had retired to the Big Cylindians at last accounts had retired to the Big Cylindians at last accounts had retired to the Big Cylindians at last accounts had retired to the Big Cylindians at last accounts had retired to the Big Cylindians at last accounts had retired to the Big Cylindians at last accounts had retired to the Big Cylindians at last accounts had retired to the Big Cylindians at last accounts had retired to the Big Cylindians at last accounts had retired to the Big Cylindians at last accounts had retired to the Big Cylindians at last accounts had retired to the Big Cylindians at last accounts had retired to the Big Cylindians at last accounts had retired to the Big Cylindians at last accounts had retired to the Big Cylindians at last accounts had retired to the Big Cylindians at last accounts had retired to the Big Cylindians at last accounts had retired to the Big Cylindians at last accoun

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